

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Virtues of the Female Companions and the Importance of Educating the Women

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Source: **Naseehatee lin Nisaa.**

Translated by: Tarbiyyah Bookstore Publishing & Distribution

Edited by: Tarbiyyah Bookstore Publishing & Distribution

Imaam al-Bukhaaree has stated (7/133): Muhammad relayed to me that ‘Abdah relayed to us on Hishaam bin ‘Urwah on his father that he said: I heard ‘Abdullaah bin Ja’far saying, I heard ‘Alee, (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) saying, I heard the Messenger of Allaah, (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ) saying, “The best of its women is Maryam and the best of its women is Khadijah.” Also related by Muslim (4/2430)

It is appropriate for us women, that we exemplify this virtuous woman and likewise the other virtuous women such as ‘Aa’ishah, (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا). She has many virtues to the point that some of the scholars give ‘Aai’s Shah precedence over Khadijah (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا) due to the abundance of evidences that are found regarding her virtues. She spread knowledge and is considered to be amongst those who relayed the most narrations. As the poet has stated,

“Seven of the companions relayed more than a thousand (Hadeeth) and they quoted

Hadeeth on the chosen one, the best of the creation

Aboo Hurayrah, Sa'd, Jaabir, Anas,

Siddiqah (i.e. 'Aa'ishah), Ibn 'Abbaas, and likewise Ibn 'Umar."

And as-Suyootee has written another piece of poetry and said,

Those who relayed an abundance of narrations,

Aboo Hurayrah, and following him is Ibn 'Umar,

Anas, al-Hibr (i.e. Ibn 'Abbaas), al-Khudree (i.e. Sa'd),

Jaabir, and the wife of the Prophet (i.e. 'Aa'ishah).

Imaam at-Tirmidhee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) has stated (no. 3883): It has been relayed to us by Humaid bin Mas'adah, that Ziyaad bin ar-Rabee' relayed to us, that Khaalid bin Salamah al-Makhzoomee relayed to us, on Aboo Bardah, on Aboo Moosaa that he said, "There has never been a *Hadeeth* that was difficult for the companions of the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to understand that they asked 'Aa'ishah about except that they found her having knowledge of it." Its chain of transmission is *Hasan*.

And likewise is the remainder of the Prophet's wives, (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) such as Umm Sulaym, the pious woman, whose dowry was Islaam.

Imaam al-Bukhaaree has mentioned in his *Saheeh*:

Umm ad-Dardaa was sitting in a men's gathering about the Salaah (prayer), and she was a *Faqeehah* (i.e. learned scholar). Some of the female companions said, "O Messenger of Allaah, the men have overwhelmed us, so give us a day that we can learn what Allaah has taught you." So he said to them, "Gather on such and such a day." So they gathered and he came to them, admonishing them, and ordering them. From that which he said to them, "There is no woman that brings forth three children except that it will be a shield for her from the fire." So a woman said, "Two?" and he said, "Two."

The Messenger of Allaah, (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was staunch in allowing them to hear the good and he would give reminders specific to them.

On Ibn Jurayr, on 'Ataa', on Jaabir bin 'Abdillaah that he said:

The Prophet, (ﷺ) stood for the Day of *Fitr* (i.e. 'Eid al-Fitr). So he began with the prayer then he gave the *Khutbah*. After he had finished the women came, so he gave them a reminder while supporting himself on Bilaal's shoulder and Bilaal was wearing a plain garment (*Thawb*). He reminded the women of *Sadaqah* (charity).

And in a narration on Ibn 'Abbaas, "He thought that the women did not hear him so he advised them and ordered them with Sadaqah (charity)."

Ibn Jurayj said to 'Ataa, "Do you view it to be a right upon the *Imaam* that he reminds them (i.e. the women)?" So he said, "It is definitely a right upon them (i.e. the *Imaams*) and what is wrong with them that they do not do it?"

Therefore this affair is not something specific to the Messenger of Allaah, (ﷺ). So it is appropriate that the scholars and the rulers pay attention and tend to the

affairs of the women just as the Messenger of Allaah, (ﷺ) tended to them.

The *Salaf as-Saalih* (righteous predecessors) would tend to them and relay knowledge and narrations to them just as they would with the men so that they can be guided to the keys of excellence and prevented from evil. So there is no obedience upheld in the correct manner except by knowledge, and knowledge is absolutely the most virtuous of obedient acts.

This was clearly stated by a *Zaahidah* (ascetic), *Faqeebah*, 'Aalimah, (i.e. learned scholar).

She is Umm ad-Dardaa (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا) and she said, "I have sought out worship in everything, and I have not found anything better for myself and more gratifying than sitting with the scholars and (benefiting) from their reminders." So the women of today are in more need of her likes from the women who are ascetics, virtuous, and scholars cultivating others.¹

¹ A quotation from the book, *Inaayatun Nisaa bil Hadeeth an-Nabawee* by Mashoor bin Hasan p. 13

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